

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية « الراي »

Crown Prince praises science and technology conference

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy today praised the outcome of the conference on science and technology policy which has just concluded sessions in Amman. Addressing the conference preparatory committee and the conference secretariat today Prince Hassan called for a meeting next Thursday at the Royal Scientific Society to pursue the study of the recommendations of the conference, and thanked the various departments and officials who worked hard to make the conference a real success.

Volume 3, Number 686

AMMAN, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1978 — RABIE AWAL 16, 1398

Syrians stay in Lebanon, says Tlas

DAMASCUS, Feb. 23 (R). — Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas said today that Syrian troops would continue to help preserve Lebanon's security. Gen. Tlas was speaking to representatives of the National Federation of Syrian Students. Referring to the latest outbreak of fighting in Beirut, Gen. Tlas said some traitors wanted to carry out designs against the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation. Meanwhile, in South Lebanon, rightist forces exchanged artillery fire last night with Palestinians and their leftist allies in villages close to the border with Israel, local residents reported today.

Price: Jordan 80 fils; Syria 80 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

King Hussein confers with Callaghan

LONDON, Feb. 23 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein, in London on a private visit, held talks last night with British Prime Minister James Callaghan on the latest Middle East developments. Mr. Callaghan has a dinner for the King at Number 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's official London residence. Guests included foreign and defence secretaries, Dr. David Owen and Mr. Fred Mulley respectively. This was the prime minister's first meeting with King Hussein since President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem last November. Mr. Callaghan discussed the Egyptian-Israeli peace moves with President Sadat in London earlier this month. He then assured President Sadat that Britain would use its good offices to ensure "his constructive approach is translated into progress."

Dayan expects Egypt to insist on Palestinian self-determination

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (R). — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was quoted today as saying that Egypt has taken a "harder line" towards peace negotiations because of continued Arab World pressure. Informed sources said Mr. Dayan made this assessment in a report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee dealing with his recent visit to Washington. Statements made to the committee are supposed to be kept secret. Mr. Dayan told a radio interviewer he was furious at leaks of the meeting which had appeared in the morning press. One report in the newspaper Haaretz said Mr. Dayan learned in Washington that Egypt had backed away from supporting a compromise formula proposed by President Jimmy Carter for drafting a declaration of principles for Middle East peace. Mr. Dayan was quoted as saying that Mr. Sadat was now insisting on a straight declaration of the right of Palestinians to self-determination -- something the Israelis refuse to accept. The Israelis have so far balked even at the American compromise wording. This talks about "the legitimate right of the Palestinians to participate in determination of their own future."



President Hafez Assad of Syria (facing camera) is pictured with the President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR during a meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet army and navy in the Kremlin. (TASS photo)

Joint Syrian-Soviet communique lashes out strongly at Sadat

MOSCOW, Feb. 23 (R). — Syria and the Soviet Union today condemned the Egyptian Middle East peace initiative as a capitulation which had split the Arab World and called for opposition from all "progressive forces". The joint attack on President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel came in a communique issued at the end of a three-day visit to Moscow by Syrian President Hafez Assad. President Assad and Kremlin chief Leonid Brezhnev, who apparently concentrated on ways of opposing the peace talks during their meetings, were "convinced that the separate talks do a serious damage to the interests of the Arab peoples," the communique said. "They firmly condemn the Egyptian government's capitulatory actions which are bringing about a split in the unity of Arab states and are directed against the Arab and African peoples' struggle for national liberation and independence," it added. Both sides called for an overall Middle East peace settlement based on U.N. resolutions and added that "the rallying and coordination of action of all progressive forces are particularly important in the present conditions."

Sadat under pressure to sign separate deal?

CHICAGO, Feb. 23 (R). — Israeli Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said today the pressure was on Egypt to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel because of President Anwar Sadat's November visit to Jerusalem. Mr. Mordechai, speaking at a press conference here, said the Egyptian leader could not go back on what he had already done. The energy minister said he was confident the U.S. would help Israel acquire a nuclear power plant. "What you've been spending in the Far East in lives and wealth, what you are spending now in Europe to maintain NATO -- with poor results in both areas -- Israel is giving it to you for almost nothing, so you have a foothold in the Middle East that you would have lost years ago."

Kyprianou keeps door open to reconcile Egypt with Cyprus

NICOSIA, Feb. 23 (Agencies). — President Spyros Kyprianou today pleaded for a restoration of relations with Egypt but again refused Cairo's requests to hand over two Arab gunmen who sparked Sunday's Larnaca airport battle in which 15 Egyptian commandos died.

President Anwar Sadat, describing Mr. Kyprianou as a political dwarf, yesterday severed all ties with the Mediterranean island and withdrew recognition of its president. Mr. Kyprianou, in his first public reaction to the Egyptian move, said in a written statement: "I appreciate and absolutely respect President Sadat's strong feelings. His present justifiably psychological state provides, I believe, an explanation for the Egyptian president's decisions."

This was an apparent reference to the assassination of Mr. Sadat's close friend, Youssef Sibat, editor of the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, who was shot at a Nicosia hotel on Saturday.

President Sadat said Egypt withdrew its recognition of Mr. Kyprianou as president of Cyprus, bringing Egypt into line with Turkey which also does not recognise Mr. Kyprianou. The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said today Egypt was studying other measures against Cyprus which "will have international impact." It did not elaborate.

This gave rise to speculation that Egypt might recognise the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot federated state set up in the northern part of the island, under Turkish occupation since it wants to survive. The Turkish Cypriots, who have failed to gain any international recognition, maintain

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"Silent majority" in Israel opposes new settlements, Australian labour leader says

By Ian Kellas
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 23 — There is a silent majority in Israel and in the Israeli cabinet which is opposed to the most recent Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory, Mr. Bob Hawke, the visiting Australian labour leader, told the Jordan Times this morning. Mr. Hawke, who has just come from Israel to Jordan on his first visit to an Arab country, went on to say "I think Mr. Begin realises that Israel cannot ultimately act in isolation. If the United States position does harden, I think there must be an Israeli response," Mr. Hawke said. Talking about the general public in Israel, he commented: "The majority position would be that there has to be withdrawal," but this must be preceded by "arrangements establishing the security of the state."



Mr. Bob Hawke (right) meets with Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh at the latter's office Wednesday. (JNA photo)

and voiced his country's willingness to cooperate for supporting the just peace process in the area, official sources reported.

But he warned that there was still distrust in Israel of the Syrian and Palestinian attitudes. Mr. Hawke, who has the reputation of being a staunch backer of Israel, said that the PLO should not be welcomed to Australia until it renounced that part of its charter which called for what he termed "the destruction of Israel."

Such a move on the part of the PLO would greatly facilitate the peace process in general, he believed. "At some stage, there is going to be need for independent arbiters," Mr. Hawke said, and as a country acceptable to both parties, "Australia would be available to such a purpose."

He felt that the international trade union movement could also assist in the Mideast peace process. But this was probably premature at a stage where peace negotiations have not really commenced, and cannot commence until Jordan joins in.

But he stressed that it would be very unwise to try to rush Jordan to the conference table. The peace process, he said, would be a slow one.

Asked whether he had discussed the question in Israel of the unfair treatment of Arab workers, Mr. Hawke replied that he had carried out no personal investigation.

Not a courier
 He did not come as a courier between Israel and Jordan,

Agreement with Ajlouni
 Official sources said Mr. Hawke and Mr. Ajlouni discussed ways of establishing cooperation between Jordan and Australia in the field of the labour movement.

The sources said the two sides agreed to arrange for the exchange of visits by labour leaders.

Mr. Hawke told Mr. Ajlouni that he would try to convince his government to give Jordan two or three scholarships in a college for labour studies in Australia.

Popular U.S. support for Israel has suffered, Rabbi Schindler says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (R). — Israel's popular support in the United States has suffered "a substantial setback" mainly over the issue of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land, according to an American Jewish leader.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Major Jewish Organisations in the U.S., told the Zionist Congress yesterday that recent public opinion polls showed the decline in Israel's popularity was widespread.

Confusion and misunderstanding which surrounded Israel's settlement policy were the main reason for erosion in Israel's popularity in the United States although Rabbi Schindler said recent American declarations on the settlements issue were also to be blamed.

He said the American administration was preparing the ground for the introduction of a U.S. peace plan to the Middle East.

World Zionist body appoints new head

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (R). — Mr. Arye Dultzin, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, was today appointed chairman of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO).

He was named without opposition by the 29th congress of the Zionist body which opened here yesterday.

He replaces Mr. Yosef Almog who, like previous WZO heads since the establishment of the state of Israel, was a nominee of the ruling Labour Party in Israel and its affiliates in Zionist political parties in all Jewish communities throughout the world.

Mr. Dultzin, 65, a member of the liberal wing of the Likud Party headed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, came to Israel nearly 30 years ago and served as Minister without Portfolio in the broad Israel coalition government headed by the late Premier Levi Eshkol after the 1967 war.

Congress delegates representing the reform and conservative congregations in American

Jewry today tabled a resolution calling for full equality in Israel for their followers with orthodox rabbis.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Chairman of the conference of the presidents of Jewish organisations in the United States, told a press conference that reform and conservative Jews in the U.S. provided the vast bulk of the funds donated to Israel and were those called upon to act politically on behalf of Israel.

"If we are called on to help Israel financially we should be granted religious equality," he said.

Addressing the political committee of the Zionist congress former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon attacked Mr. Begin's proposals for autonomy for West Bank Arabs.

"Such a proposal is anti-Zionist and a threat to Israel's security," he said. He called for territorial compromise, with part of the occupied area being returned to Jordan. "This would serve as a connection between Israel and Jordan."

Turkey ready to "officialise" PLO ties

ANKARA, Feb. 23 (R). — Official talks between Maj. Abdul Salam Jalloud, a senior member of the Libyan government, and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit were held here today.

During the talks Mr. Ecevit said a just and durable peace in the Middle East could only be attained when the Israeli occupied territories were handed over to their Arab owners, and the rights of the Palestinians, including their right to form their state, were recognised.

"Our government, which has friendly ties with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, is

ready to officialise these relations," he added. Official sources said Turkey was seeking the Libyan government's support for joint investments in various fields, especially in energy, construction and transport.

Mr. Ecevit said at a dinner given in Maj. Jalloud's honour here last night that it was necessary for the developing countries to unite forces to work towards the establishing of a more just world economic order, and to resist exploitation and imperialism of all kinds.

In this respect, Turkish-Libyan cooperation and solidarity could set an example for the Third World countries, he said.

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الجزيرة العربية المستقلة اليومية المسلمة العربية المنشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Mondays. Advertising and subscription rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising dept.

Plus ça change....

The Carter administration's announcement of plans to provide \$4.14 billion in foreign military aid to 49 countries next year, with Israel being the single biggest recipient, is as good an indication as we have yet had recently of exactly where the Americans stand in the Middle East picture. The Israeli military aid package (which does not include economic assistance) stands at an astounding \$1.785 billion for fiscal year 1979, or a full 43 per cent of the American military aid total.

This is the context within which one should realistically appraise the American decision last week to sell fighter planes to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel, because this awesome American aid to Israel is the underpinning of all political and military events in the Middle East. It is quite ludicrous for Israel to say that the Americans are "pressuring" it to make unreasonable concessions while the Americans are providing it with 43 per cent of their total foreign military assistance. It is similarly unrealistic for the Arabs to expect the Americans all of a sudden to suspend or reduce this massive aid effort for Israel in a bid to "pressure" the Begin government to make more reasonable peace proposals.

The Carter administration's latest military aid proposals show very clearly the complexities of America's dilemma in the Middle East, where it has now found itself being a, or the, principal source of economic and military aid to three of the main protagonists, namely Israel, Egypt and Jordan. And while the Arabs can point to American aid as a sign of evenhandedness and friendship, it is conversely and simultaneously true that the continued massive scale of American aid to Israel is the single most important factor in allowing Israel to defy the consensus of the entire world regarding Middle East peace requirements. This week's U.S. military aid proposals show that nothing has changed.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I, Thursday regretted what it called the anti-Palestinian slogans lifted in Egypt during the funeral service of the 15 Egyptian commandos who fell dead in Larnaca earlier this week, and ruled out the possibility of Jordan joining the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations at least in the foreseeable future.

The newspaper says Israel now began to concentrate, more than ever before, on the question of signing a separate peace treaty with Egypt, as a result of the negotiations they began late last year.

Al Ra'i says that to dub the Palestinian people terrorists, is doing injustice to them and is a clear attempt to cover-up Israel's intentions to efface the identity of the Palestinians, who have been and are still suffering during the past 30 years...

"We do not think that President Anwar Sadat would be influenced by these shouts that can never be an expression of the Egyptian people's sentiments towards the Palestinian people and the Palestine issue," the newspaper says.

Photographers wanted

The Jordan Times wants to see the work of photographers with black and white prints of any and all scenes in Jordan, either individual pictures or collections of photo-stories on a single theme. We are interested in publishing individual photos or photo-stories on a regular basis, and we'd like to see the work of local photographers, both Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike.

If you have photos to show or would like to do some feature photos for the Jordan Times, please contact Mr. Khouri at the Jordan Times offices any day between 9:00 and 12:00 a.m. and between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. to make an appointment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Jordan Times welcomes letters from its readers commenting on material published in the newspaper or on any matter of public interest. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and preferably not longer than 300 words. They will be edited only for style and grammatical purposes, and letters longer than 300 words may be shortened at the editor's discretion.

Letters should be sent by mail to: the Editor, the Jordan Times, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.



Meeting seeks to determine

Does Amman need an International High School for expats?

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JT). — Moves are underway to establish a full international high school for expatriate children in Amman. A meeting to ascertain the exact needs for such a school is to be the subject of a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the American Community School auditorium. Self appointed catalyst in initiating the movement to establish the new school is Paul S. C. Smith, founder of the Baptist School in Amman.

Mr. Smith stresses that "the school is not a fact, rather a desire felt on the part of many parents of international high school students who have now to leave Jordan to finish their English language high school education."

A survey is now being conducted amongst expatriate families in Amman to ascertain the actual need for school year 1978-79 for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade classes.

The International High School, if established, would follow an American curriculum and would be open to non-Jordanian students. A form is being distributed through the American Community School inviting parents to declare their intentions for their high school age children for next year.

Mr. Smith, who is now the Chairman of the Southern Baptist Mission in Jordan, says the International High School would have no official connection with the Baptist Mission, American Community School, any foreign embassy or country.

"If it is started in September its total support will be from tuition fees from students." A Board elected "by the parents, from the parents" will later assume responsibility for the school.

The faculty will be qualified and experienced American and locally available teachers. Accreditation arrangements from the USA are being pursued, Mr. Smith says.

The purpose of the meeting on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. is to decide "if a real need exists for the High School and if there is adequate support from the International High School."

More information is available from Paul S. C. Smith, phone 42934, P.O. Box 17051 Amman.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Art Exhibit

The British Council, in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Art, presents an exhibition of works by four young Jordanian artists. Today is the last day.

Forest planting postponed

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The launching of a new forest at the district of Yajouz which was to have taken place Friday has been postponed until further notice due to heavy rainfall at the site of the forest.

Elaborate ritualistic feasts, bound by protocol are mainstay of Arab hospitality, cement friendships and give praise to God

Mohammad ibn Hasan ibn Mohammad ibn Al Karim Al Katib Al Baghdadi, the thirteenth-century Arab writer, enumerated six kinds of pleasure: food, drink, clothes, sex, scent and sound, the noblest being food. For Al Baghdadi, however, eating was something more than the satisfaction of hunger; it was an important social activity, which brought people together in mutual fellowship and goodwill.

Nor was Al Baghdadi alone in emphasizing the social significance of eating, for many other Arab writers, both ancient and modern, have stressed the importance of hospitality in Middle Eastern culture, seeing it not simply as a pleasurable pastime but also a duty.

"If people stand at your door," runs the old Arabic proverb, "don't shut it before them."

Yet another reads: "Give the guest food to eat even though you yourself are starving."

The Holy Koran mentions food many times, stressing its significance as a gift from God. "O ye who believe," runs Sura 2, verse 172, "eat of the good things! That we have provided for you, And be grateful to God, If it is Him ye worship."

In other words food, in the Arab World, is much more than the staff of life; it is a means of promoting friendship, and when people eat together they are, in a sense, praising God, who has, in his beneficence, provided them with the means of sustaining life.

Elaborate ritual

Consequently, eating in the

Arab World has its own elaborate ritual, which the faithful are expected to observe. Both host and guests following a code of manners which is designed to promote the welfare of all. The host is expected to welcome his guests warmly, and to provide for them in excess of what their appetites would seem to demand, for if after a meal nothing remains, one might think that the guests have been inadequately provided for, and could have eaten more.

At the same time, however much food may have been provided, the host should apologize for not offering more, and is expected to make ex-

Guests too are expected to play their appointed roles. They are expected to eat well, and congratulate the host on the quality of his cuisine. They should immediately take the food that is offered them, and their eating should be unhurried, and enlivened with pleasant gossip and small talk.

On leaving, the guests should thank their host warmly and bless him for his hospitality, and afterwards speak well of him and his household, praising his generosity and kindness.

In traditional households a strict etiquette is observed during meals.

Before eating the word "Bi-

The pleasures of the table are an important facet of Arab hospitality, deserving due consideration of the rules of etiquette, as this article by Doctor John Mouro, reprinted from Saudia's inflight magazine, "Ahlan wa Sahlan" reports.

cuses for the supposed meanness of his offering.

Conversation at meal times should never provoke controversy, and if the guests are guilty of expressing opinions that their host at other times might find arguable, he should nevertheless refrain from entering into a dispute, for to quarrel with them would be a serious breach of good manners.

Eat well

Nor should the host ask his guests if they would like more food or drink. Instead he should provide them automatically, insisting that they taste them, in spite of repeated refusals.

smallah" is uttered by all, meaning "in the name of God", and while nowadays the twelve rules of etiquette as enunciated by the ancient Arab tradition may not be strictly followed, it is expected that their spirit should be observed.

Thus, guests should know that God is the real provider, and that thanks are due to Him both before and after eating. They should wash their hands before and after eating. Guests should also eat from the dish that is immediately in front of them, and from the side of the dish that is nearest to them; they should take small pieces and chew their food well, and not gaze at the people around them.

It is also considered good manners to continue eating small portions of food, even though one may have satisfied his appetite, until the others at table have finished eating, for to stop may be interpreted as an indication that the food should be removed, which would deprive other guests of eating their fill.

Stuffed lamb

Although in many parts of the Arab World the conventional western dining room table and chairs are used, traditionally, Arab dining tables are large round metal trays resting on small stands, and the guests will sit on cushions on the floor, the food being served in a number of small dishes.

The main dish is invariably meat, and in Saudi Arabia especially, one of the most popular dishes for important festive occasions is roasted and stuffed lamb surrounded by mountains of boiled rice and decorated with hard-boiled eggs.

Popular vegetables are aubergines, courgettes, tomatoes, onions, okra and green peppers, which may be boiled or fried in oil, sometimes stuffed with meat sauce or rice, and flavoured with lemon, garlic, pepper, paprika, ground coriander, cinnamon or ginger, or soaked in yoghurt.

Coffee ceremony

Saffron, the pistil of a certain variety of crocus, is also much appreciated, and is used both for colouring and for its faint, delicate aroma. Invariably, small cups of bitter coffee are served at the



Fresh fruit and vegetables, readily available throughout Amman, make for tasty local meals.

end of a meal, the most important guest being served first and the most senior present next.

While Arabic food is characterized by its infinite variety, there are nevertheless some foods which will never find their way to the pious Moslem's table. These include pig's flesh, any animal that was actually dead before being slaughtered or killed for reasons other than food, blood, and alcoholic beverages, all of which are specifically prohibited by the Holy Koran.

Also, while Arab tables are invariably lavish, it is customary to find the same dishes being served in all households of a particular community.

The reason for this is simply that as the host is primarily concerned with ensuring the goodwill and satisfaction of his guests, it would be a

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This violent poster display advertising a film is itself subject to violent damage in Beirut's Place des Martyrs. The picture underscores the tension filled mood of the Lebanese capital today.

(Picture by Barbara Beesley)

National News Roundup

Envoy presents credentials

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, received at Raghadan Palace today the credentials of the non-resident ambassadors of Finland and Canada to the Royal Hashemite Court. The ceremonies were attended by the minister of state for foreign affairs and the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Denmark lends JD 2.7 million to Jordan

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — Denmark is to grant Jordan a fifty-million-Krone loan (equivalent to JD 2.7 million) to finance the construction of cold store and the purchase of electric generators and other equipment, according to an agreement signed here today. Three warehouses for the preservation of agricultural products are to be built: one in Amman with a capacity reaching 4,000 tons; another in the Jordan Valley with a capacity of about 1,500 tons and a third in the port city of Aqaba with an estimated capacity of 3,000 tons. The loan will be the third of its kind in the course of economic cooperation between Denmark and Jordan. The agreement was signed by the chairman of the National Planning Council and the Danish ambassador to Jordan.

Housing Corporation signs agreement for new town

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The Housing Corporation and a Swiss firm have signed an agreement by which the firm undertakes to draw up a design for the construction of the New Abu Nusseir Town north of Amman. According to the agreement, the design will cost JD 300,000 and will have to be completed in eighteen months. The director of the Housing Corporation, who signed the agreement with the firm, told the Jordan News Agency that the new town will house about 40,000 people in 6,500 units, to be built on an area 2,300 dunums. Estimated cost of construction is JD 50,000,000.

Cinema critics wanted

The Jordan Times is looking for a qualified film critic to review films that are screened in Amman, both in the commercial cinemas as well as the cultural centres. We would like someone with previous experience in writing film reviews, and a proven expertise in the field of cinema and the performing arts in general. The position would probably involve writing one or two reviews per month, perhaps increasing to three or four per month with time. Interested persons who have the above qualifications and are interested in writing reviews for the Jordan Times should contact: Mr. Khouri by telephone at the Jordan Times, at 67171, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Jordan to participate in FAO meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — Jordan is to take part in the meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) agricultural committee which are to open in Rome on March 2nd. Delegates to the ten-day meeting are scheduled to discuss agricultural cooperation among participating nations, particularly in technical fields and the exchange of expertise. The under-secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Said Ghazzawi will represent Jordan at the meeting.

Student's Day celebrated

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — All schools in the kingdom observed Student's Day today. Special celebrations were held at different schools; and teachers and students made speeches on the occasion underlining the importance of education and students' role in the building up of their country.

Pension Fund to invest in projects

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (J.T.). — The Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammad Dabbas today said that the Jordanian Pension Fund capital has increased to JD 18 million and will take part in implementing a number of important projects. Dr. Dabbas told Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday that in addition to participating in the establishment of the timber complex at Aqaba, the fund will help financing a big market centre behind Jordan Hotel Intercontinental and a commercial scheme on the Wadi Seer road. It will further carry out a number of joint ventures in cooperation with the Amman Municipality and the Housing Bank, the Finance Minister said.

Jordanian, Kuwaiti science organisations cooperate on research

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research and the Jordanian Royal Scientific Society (RSS) are fully cooperating in various scientific researches and studies for comprehensive development purposes in both countries, the Director of the Kuwaiti institute, Dr. Adnan Shihab Al Deen, said Wednesday. Dr. Shihab Al Deen, who attended the Science and Technology policy conference, which has just ended in Amman, said that during his stay in Jordan he discussed with Jordanian officials the possibility of the institute and the RSS cooperating in executing a number of solar energy projects such as central heating and air conditioning of houses and refrigeration in the Aqaba area. He said that a number of Kuwaiti scientists and researchers will visit the RSS early next month to discuss possible implementation of these joint ventures within a given timetable.

Soviets give celebration party

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The Soviet embassy this evening held a reception on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army and Navy. The party was attended by heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan, and a number of officials and guests.

Narcotics dealers arrested

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (J.T.). — An official source at the Narcotics Section of the Public Security Department said yesterday that it arrested a number of hashish dealers and users. The department also arrested an Egyptian who was selling "seconal" and "pentagon" tablets on the desert Highway.

Riziq Da'doush, a driver, was caught while selling a 135 gram piece of hashish in Dec. 1977. This man admitted that he got the narcotic from another man called Abu Safi who was later arrested while in possession of six packets of hashish. Abu Safi said another two pieces of hashish were with another man called Abd. Abu Shama, who was arrested on the basis of this information.

The source also said that another offender, Mohammad Issam, was arrested while selling a piece of hashish. His house was searched and another piece of the same drug, weighing 105 grams, was found. He admitted that he and Ali Samara bought the hashish from Adam Sabah who was arrested in possession of five pieces of hashish.

Econoscope

By Jawad Ahmad

War technology should take priority

In sitting through the procedures and discussions of the Jordan Science and Technology Policy Conference, I was extremely enthused. Listening to various talents narrating their own relevant experiences is a rare and rewarding experience.

Yet there was one major aspect which thus far, and to the best of my knowledge, has not been discussed. This is namely military technology and its links with civil technology and industry.

Let us face the grim fact that war is the best source of peace industry and technology. History teaches us that overcoming military technological bottlenecks is the main source of civil industrial progress.

Archimedes was said to have developed the use of mirrors as a weapon in order to defend his city. In more recent history, the Ottomans who welcomed every innovative idea to improve their military efficiency reversed some of them after a time-gap to civil use.

In our recent history and present, one may pose a number of questions which may, prima facie, seem hypothetical, but are relevant indeed.

What would be the status of the aeroplane

industry if the emergent need to develop aircraft during the world wars did not arise?

Mobile bridges, biochemical inventions, germs, cars and heavy equipment mobiles, road construction and other examples serve as clear-cut evidence to the contribution of war to human welfare. Let's not forget telecommunications, radio, and electronics which are colouring our everyday life.

The current space craze and man's drive to conquer new horizons have also had a great impact on our industries. The space industry is not wholly devoted to peace.

Yet the most glaring example which serves my purpose is the development of atomic energy. Now the servicing of this unlimited source of energy in peaceful pursuits is too evident to be even raised. In the thought-provoking lecture delivered by Professor Ramana of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in India there is an obvious link between this scientific branch and civil welfare.

In the Arab Middle East, we need to develop our military technology in order to defend ourselves against an enemy who is developing that technological power.

We also need it in order to maximise the returns we can accrue on our rich and available resources.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	Nominal share value	Volume traded	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
1 Jordan National Bank	JD 5,000	912	6.300	6.250	6.250	6.250	—	—
*2 Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	JD 1,000	52	1.200	1.300	1.300	1.300	—	—
3 Jordan Cement Factory	JD 10,000	477	15.950	15.900	15.900	15.900	15.900	16.000
4 Paper and Cardboard Factory	JD 1,000	82	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—	—
5 Jordan Ceramics Factory	JD 1,000	50	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—	1.050
6 Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	178	6.800	6.850	6.850	6.850	6.800	6.850
75 per cent of share capital paid.								
Total volume traded, Thursday, Feb. 23: JD 1,751								

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BUSINESS SUPPLIES



Intervention likely as U.S. mine owners refuse to meet miners

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — Mine owners have rejected a government request to meet striking miners, setting the stage for federal intervention in America's longest coal strike. Labour Secretary Ray Marshall emerged from a meeting with negotiators for the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) late last night to announce their latest refusal to sit down with United Mine Workers Union (UMW) negotiators.

"There will be a meeting at the White House tomorrow morning to determine the future course of action," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Marshall had said that the government was willing to continue to mediate between the two sides, which broke off direct talks last weekend, "as long as we think it is leading anywhere." The owners' point-blank refusal to meet the leaders of the 160,000 miners after Mr. Marshall spent the day talking separately to the two sides clearly indicated the talks were getting nowhere.

President Carter now has the options of invoking the

30-year-old Taft-Hartley Act and ordering the miners back to work, using federal troops to seize the mines, or ordering binding arbitration.

Invoking the 80-day cooling off period prescribed by the Taft-Hartley Act is not thought to be a very strong choice because miners have previously ignored it.

They also turned down yesterday a proposal from representatives of the 130 mine owners to submit to binding arbitration, saying this would eliminate miners' rights to ratify a new contract by membership ballot.

Mr. Marshall said last night's talks foundered when the

BCOA turned down a union offer that an agreement reached with the Pittsburgh and Midland Coal Mining Company earlier in the week be used -- with some modifications -- as a model for the broader settlement.

Pittsburgh and Midland negotiated outside the BCOA framework.

The administration had been holding off any action in the hopes that the operators would agree to use that agreement, which still has to be ratified by the miners, as a basis for settling the 11-week-old strike.

Last night, Mr. Marshall told a press conference that the administration still hoped to reach a negotiated settlement and believed that any other solution would be a lot worse.

However, he added that the situation "could not continue indefinitely."

Many of the 160,000 striking miners have objected to proposals to date that would weaken their health and pension system and would impose severe penalties on those participating in wildcat strikes.

They claim unauthorised strikes are one of the few ways to ensure safety standards are maintained.

The strike, in the Appalachian region of the East-Central United States, has resulted in power cutbacks in several states. Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Indiana are the worst hit.

Spain fails to cash in on Arab World opportunities

MADRID, Feb. 23 (R). — Although Spain enjoys good relations with Arab countries, it has not cashed in on commercial and financial opportunities open to foreign investors since the oil boom, a prominent Arab banker said today.

Mr. Abdulla Saudi, Chairman of the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, told a business conference here Spain had failed to follow the example of other industrialised countries which launched an aggressive sales policy in the Arab World to offset the effects of oil price rises.

"The Middle East and North Africa have been the fastest expanding areas for trad-

ing and opportunities and the focus of concentration and competition in the last few years," Mr. Saudi said.

"But the Arab-Spanish relationship in commercial and financial fields shows a tremendous deficit on the part of Spain and until now Spain has not gained a strong position in the Arab countries in any special field," he added.

Mr. Saudi noted that Spain had managed to attract Arab finance in one successful venture -- the Arab-Span Bank. This had participated syndicated loans for Spain amounting to more than two billion dollars since it was established in 1973, Mr. Saudi said.

New technique may rival the X-ray

By Paul Harrison

An apparently harmless rival to X-rays is being developed at an English university which could help in the fight against cancer as well as perform the same service as X-rays without the radiation.

LONDON, (WFS) — A new diagnostic technique which could rival the X-ray, and also detect cancer, is being developed at Nottingham University in the English Midlands.

Scientists there have used nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) imaging to produce "pictures" of fruit, animals and a human wrist. Now they are working on the construction of a bigger machine which could take pictures of a whole human body.

The technique uses external magnetic fields to reverse the poles in the magnetic fields produced by atomic nuclei in matter. The team at Nottingham -- one of a number working in this field in Britain and the United States -- has produced pictures as highly defined as those of the X-ray. The magnetic force has no after-effects, while X-ray machines used all over the world produce harmful radiation.

No known hazard with NMR

One of the Nottingham scientists, Mr. Neil Holland, said that privately doctors admit they would like to get away from the hazard of using X-rays on their patients. "The great advantage of NMR is that there is no known hazard," he said.

A great deal of research has been carried out on NMR, which was discovered in the late 1940s and called "zeugmatography" by an American Professor, P. C. Lauterbur. It was first used as a method of investigating complex molecules and chemical reactions, but it now seems that its potential is much greater.

The Nottingham team is convinced there are no ill-effects, partly because of the mass of past research, and because of their own work. "We have had our limbs inside the machine, and nothing has happened," said Mr. Holland. He added that when the life-size model is completed -- in about 18 months -- the scientists will be the first ones inside it.

In the picture of a wrist which NMR has produced, the bones and tissue appear as light areas, while the marrow and fatty areas appear as dark patches. Blood in the veins and arteries is light due to its motion during the imaging process.

The three scientists involved -- Dr. W. Hinchshaw, Mr. P. Bottomley and Mr. Holland -- believe that their pictures are the most highly resolved to date. "We have proved that, in principle, it works," said Mr. Holland.

X-rays were discovered in 1895 by Professor Rontgen of Wurzburg, West Germany. They are used by doctors and dentists and represent the largest man-made source of radiation to which people are exposed.

Other uses

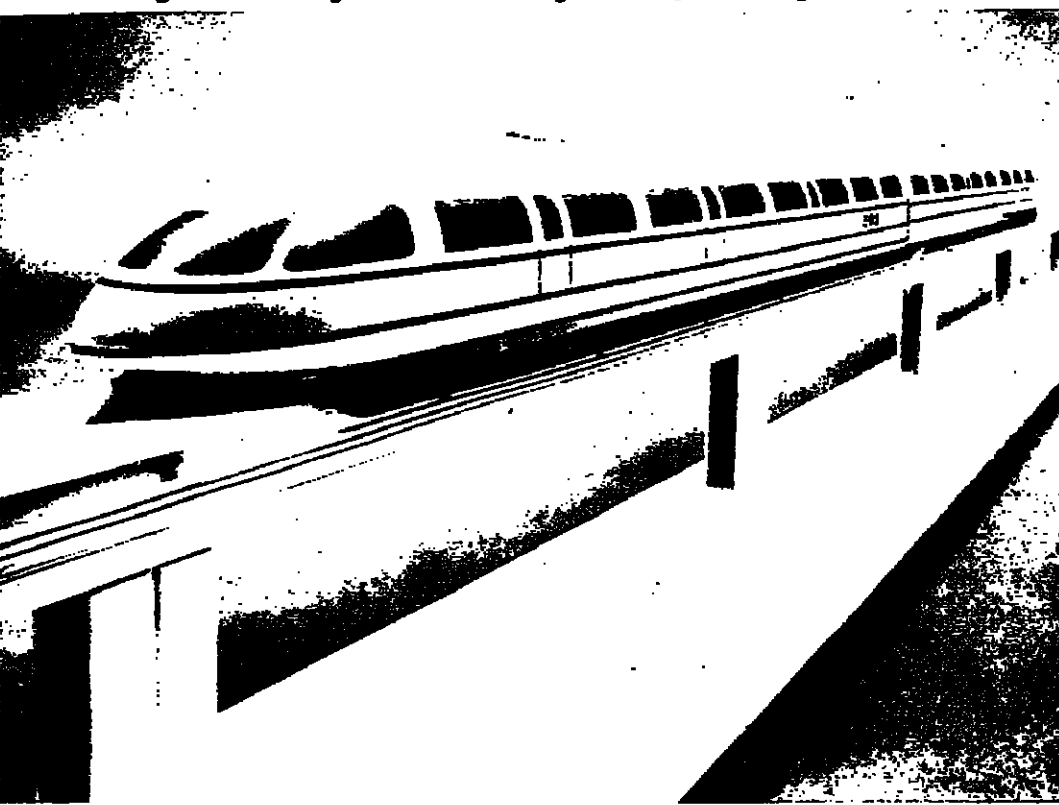
Apart from the NMR's eventual potential as a rival to the X-ray, it may also have a role to play in detecting cancer. It has been shown that it can differentiate between normal and cancerous tissues. It is its promise in the fight against cancer which has spurred research in the United States particularly.

In other ways, too, it is being found to have potential. The Nottingham team believes that there is a chance of tissue characterisation, for example, to detect dead tissue after heart attack, and also in improved methods for measuring blood flow.

One other possible medical application is in the imaging of fluorine in order to follow the changing chemical behaviour and physical distribution of fluorine compounds. Fluorine-bearing drugs can be introduced as tracers.

The team of scientists at Nottingham have found that their greatest problem is publicising their work for the medical profession to see. "We have to convince the medical profession of its viability," said Mr. Holland. A report of their work was published in a British scientific publication in December, and since then, they say, they have made considerable advances. "We are learning all the time," said Mr. Holland.

Hamburgers to get first regular passenger hovertrain



The world's first hovertrain operating regular passenger services will be the star of next year's international transport trades fair in Hamburg, West Germany. The 904 metres of track on six-metre pylons is already under construction. Operational trials are due to start next January. The service will be inaugurated in June and the entire project dismantled by the end of 1979. The hovertrain, financed by the Bonn Research Ministry, is merely a show-piece that will, it is hoped, interest foreign customers. The manufacturers have experimented with hovertrains for several years and prototypes have reached surprising speeds. But the Hamburg hovertrain will cover too short a distance to set up speed records. It is 26 metres long, seats 68 in comfort and will cruise at a metric 100, or sixty miles per hour, at the most. (DaD photo)

OPEC may have to replace dollar, Qatari petroleum minister says

DOHA, Qatar, Feb. 23 (R). — The Qatari petroleum minister was today quoted as saying that oil producing countries may have to replace the dollar with another currency if the decline in the U.S. currency erodes their revenues.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa said in an interview with the official monthly magazine Al Khaleej Al Jadeed that his country was watching closely the recent downward slide of the dollar.

If the decline began to seriously affect oil revenue, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would have to move to another currency, he said. But Sheikh Khalifa did not specify what currency might replace the dollar.

World population growth goes into the red

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — The rate of world population growth has peaked and is now declining because of an unexpected drop in the birthrate in developing countries, a group of population experts reported here this week.

"This fertility decline is good news, especially for the world's poor," Dr. Nick Eberstadt, of Harvard University's Centre for Population Studies told the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science conference here.

By the year 2000, he said, world population may rise from the present 4.1 billion people to about 5.5 billion. Previous United Nations studies projected a population of 6.5

billion by the time.

According to the Harvard studies, the rate of growth peaked at 1.9 per cent a year around 1970 and fell to 1.7 per cent last year.

Dr. Eberstadt said the decline would make the task of alleviating world poverty that much easier.

"It is in itself a sign that development is reaching the poor people who have children," he said.

Income -- a factor

Another expert, Mr. Parker Maudlin of the Population Council, told the seminar that at the rate of decline has accelerated in developing countries much faster than anyone previously realised.

The drop, he said, was three times as great in the 1970s

as the drop in the three previous decades.

Harvard's Dr. Robert Repetto linked the drop to income distribution, citing evidence that the birth rate declined dramatically in such countries as China, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia and Sri Lanka -- all of which had witnessed better distribution of wealth in the last two decades.

But little drop was registered in Brazil and the Philippines despite their rapid rates of economic growth.

While income distribution appeared to be a major factor, Dr. William Peterson of Ohio State University said government birth control campaigns, such as the big one mounted in India, appeared to have only a minor impact despite the

millions of dollars spent on them.

In the case of some poor countries, he added, "they may actually have caused fertility to rise."

Some experts speculated that this may be due to the emotional strain imposed on the poor by overzealous efforts to persuade them to practise birth control.

Another population council expert, Mr. Moni Nag, said that where economic benefits are not passed down to the poor, their children represent wealth and security.

"Not until it becomes rational for him (the peasant) to have less -- that is, until the costs of children rise and their return drops -- should one expect the birth rates in a nation to come down."

French workers balk at continuation of 16 months of severe wage controls

By Jack Gee

PARIS, (F.T.) — French workers are waxing increasingly restless as the government reaffirms its determination not to relax the severe anti-inflation programme which has curbed wage rises for the past 16 months.

Premier Raymond Barre set an annual ceiling of 6.5 per cent for wage boosts when this veteran economist was chosen to head both the government and the finance ministry in September 1976. Mr. Barre has since ordered the same limits to apply until after the general election in March this year.

His austerity package is the target of growing criticism, not only by the trade unions but by members of the government majority who argue that it could cost them many parliamentary seats at the polls.

The Barre plan has come under fire as a breach of the collective bargaining agreements which are the traditional procedure for establishing wage levels in France.

Mr. Barre's austerity rules apply to the private as well as the public sector. The only workers who escape the prime minister's pruning knife are the most poorly paid. Since the Barre plan was introduced the minimum legal salary has been raised from 1,500 francs (about £163) a month to 2,000 (about £217).

Government interference in setting wage limits for private firms has few precedents

Editor's note: Following is the fourth and last article in a series from the Financial Times describing the role of trade unions in setting wage levels in different countries. This article covers France. Only one quarter of France's labour force belongs to a union, but they can really make themselves felt when they are displeased.

In France, so the present swinging curbs have triggered a series of strikes, particularly in already depressed industries such as shipbuilding and steel-making.

But the biggest outcry has come from employees of the state and local authorities. The railways have been beset by a rash of stoppages. So have gas and electricity.

For the man-in-the-street the most uncomfortable strikes were those by Paris's dustmen and sewage workers which made the city stink for weeks on end.

With Premier Barre exercising personal responsibility for the conduct of the economy as well as running the government, the employers have been relieved to let him take the brunt for the workers' long stint of belt-tightening.

The bosses' organisation, the Confederation Nationale du Patronat Français, say they cannot be blamed for wage controls which are none of their making.

political differences in May. All their major organisations joined together for the first time for 13 years in backing a 24-hour general strike.

A march through Paris was headed by Georges Seguy, leader of the communist-backed Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) and Edmond Maire, head of the Confederation Francaise des Travailleurs, whose members are recruited among workers with socialist, extreme left wing or no political allegiance at all.

These two rival organisations, mustering a membership of 3.5 million out of a national total of 3,850,000 card-carrying trade unionists are the driving force behind the opposition to Mr. Barre's programme.

Only 25 per cent of French workers belong to a trade union compared with about 40 per cent in Britain, West Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, 60 per cent in Belgium and 70 per cent in Sweden.

So the impact of the series of strikes which have marked the past 16 months reflect

not so much a well oiled trade union machine as fundamental hostility to austerity, unemployment and inflation.

These last two aspects of France's economic crisis are proving more intractable than control of wages. The country's 1.2 million jobless -- about 300,000 more than a year ago -- represent six per cent of the working population.

Inflation is running at a rate of almost 10 per cent, twice the level which Premier Barre set at the outset of his austerity programme as the target for its success.

In contrast with Britain, the automobile industry has not suffered from many industrial disputes over the past year. The managing director of the state-owned Renault firm was held prisoner in his office for an entire day in December by workers demanding immediate wage negotiations.

But the automobile boss replied that his hands were tied. He could not yield any more than Premier Barre was prepared to grant.

French car-makers attribute their relatively good relations with the workers to the merger between Peugeot and Citroen in 1976. This was interpreted as a warning that the industry was in fragile health and could succumb to a sustained period of union unrest. Britain's lessons, at least in this respect, appear to have been learned in France.

-- Financial Times News-Features

Saudi petrochemical industry would not disrupt world markets Saudi official says

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP). — Saudi Arabia's minister of industry said yesterday his country's plans to build a petrochemical industry will probably cause the scrapping of petrochemical construction plans in "less sensible areas".

But Ghazi Al Gosaibi told the Associated Press that the Saudi plants, to be built in cooperation with American companies, will not disrupt world markets. Saudi production will eventually be only about 4 per cent of world totals, he said.

He said the product mix is being carefully designed to fill predicted demand.

Saudi Arabia is the sensible place to build the plants Mr. Gosaibi said, because of the availability of crude oil and now-flared natural gas for fuel and raw material.

Saudi Arabia, using its huge oil revenues, has planned three petrochemical plants at a new industrial port city being built at Jubail on the Arabian Gulf and a fourth at another new industrial port, Yanbu on the Red Sea. All these plants are ethylene-based.

Friday in Houston, Texas, he will sign an agreement for a methanol plant also to be built at Jubail, with the American, Canadian and Texas Eastern Companies.

Mr. Gosaibi ended a two-day Washington visit yesterday. Mr. Gosaibi said that coordination is in the early stages to avoid duplication of industrial projects in the oil-rich countries along the Gulf.

For instance, he said, there are aluminum smelters in Bahrain and Dubai and Saudi Arabia is going slow on plans for its own smelter until it sees results from those two.

He said Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, has announced plans to build a petrochemical plant and another exists in Qatar. But he said he does not think there is yet a problem of duplication.

He said a Gulf industrial organisation has been set up in Doha, Qatar to coordinate industrial projects in the area and that Saudi Arabia has invited planning ministers of Gulf nations to meet in Riyadh in 1979 to discuss development plans.

W. Germany expresses inability to meet U.S. pleas for help as dollar plunges

BONN, Feb. 23 (R). — As the dollar plunged even lower on anxious foreign exchange markets today, West Germany said it was unable to meet pleas from Washington to help the situation by boosting its economy.

The United States has been trying to persuade West Germany to stimulate its economic activity and thereby absorb more imports from the United States. This would help reduce the big American trade deficit which has been a major cause of the dollar's weakness.

But Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff told the Bonn Parliament today that the West German government had no plans to give any further financial stimulus to its economy.

Throughout the day the dollar declined on European foreign exchange markets and it even dipped at one point below 1.8 Swiss francs. Two months ago it was causing a flurry by falling below the level of two Swiss francs.

The price of gold climbed as operators retracted from dollars into the ancient metal, seeking security.

President Carter and senior members of his administration have repeatedly said they will defend the integrity of the dollar. In January, they pledged to use all available resources -- estimated at up to \$25 billion -- to support it.

But foreign exchange dealers today again stressed that they are skeptical about United States willingness to back the dollar.

It is noted that a falling dollar in itself will help make American exports cheaper, and therefore ease the U.S. deficit.

The Americans argue that their economy is growing and taking in imports while other economies are growing more slowly and are failing to import enough.

But the West German economic minister said his government had done all it could to try and stimulate growth.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian Dhs
U.S. dollar	310.00/312.00
U.K. sterling	605.00/608.00
W. German mark	152.00/153.20
Swiss franc	169.20/170.10
French franc	64.50/64.90
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.30/36.50
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.10/130.90
Belgian franc (for every ten)	97.20/97.90
Swedish crown	67.10/67.50

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Not received

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government bonds firmed by up to one half point Thursday in response to some investment demand but equities finished lower partly reflecting ICI's full year's results, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down four points at 449.9.

ICI itself finished 4p down on the day having tentatively hardened a couple of pence immediately after the results. Barclays annual results left the share price 2p higher on the day after having been up as much as 5p.

Shipping industry problems lowered Furness Withy by a net 20p. Johnson Matthey fell 32p more in reaction to the disappointing interim results announced yesterday. Wilkinson Match rose 8p in response to the dividend and profits forecast.

In an easier oil sector, Ultramar lost 5p. Insurances and properties were generally easier.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$183.20/oz.

مكتبة الامم

Israel single biggest recipient of \$ 4.14 b. in U.S. military aid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — The Carter administration has announced plans to spend \$4.14 billion in military assistance to 49 countries. Most of the money was earmarked for countries in the Middle East, with Israel remaining the biggest single recipient.

Administration officials said the figure represented a cut in real terms of 13 per cent on last year's total, in line with President Carter's declared policy of reducing arms sales abroad.

The military assistance budget for the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1 was presented yesterday to Congress, where moves have also been made to cut military aid.

Under the plans, Israel would get \$1 billion in easy-

to-rms foreign military sales (FMS) financing, and \$785 million in the direct payments known as security supporting assistance.

Editorial comment -- p. 2

Egypt would receive assistance worth a total of \$750.4 million, Jordan of \$275 million and Syria of \$90 million.

Officials said the record of each country on human rights had been considered in deciding whether to grant assistance, but they could not cite any example of where this had resulted in a change of policy.

Yesterday, U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown hinted that the United States would not sell fighter planes to Israel if Congress rejected fighters for Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The Carter administration recently sent Congress a \$4.8 billion request for F-15 Eagle and F-16 Tomcat fighters for Israel, F-15s for Saudi Arabia and shorter-range F-5 Freedom Fighters for Egypt.

Mr. Brown told a Congressional hearing the three proposed sales were one package from the standpoint of the administration's policy of maintaining the Middle East "military balance" as well as the "political needs that we need to satisfy."

French opinion poll gives leftists clear victory in elections

PARIS, Feb. 23 (R). — A public opinion poll published today said the opposition leftwing parties stood to win next month's French general elections by 13 seats from the ruling centre-right coalition.

According to the poll, published in the pro-government L'Aurore newspaper, the Socialists, Communists and leftwing Radicals were likely to take 252 seats in the French National Assembly. The centre-right parties were tipped to gain 239.

With the elections 17 days away the poll said 49 per cent of those asked intended to vote for the left, compared with 46 per cent for the centre-right and five per cent for other groups.

Two weeks ago 47 per cent of those asked said they would vote for the left while 45 per cent said they supported the centre-right.

In another development, French Prime Minister Raymond Barre yesterday rejected Socialist allegations that the government was using French embassies abroad to gather proxy votes for ruling parties in next month's elections.

"It is clear that neither the Foreign Affairs administration nor the government can be accused of having taken part in a fraud," Mr. Barre said in a statement published in the official Government Gazette.

Exhaustive enquiries in 16 capitals where there are large French colonies had shown no evidence of abuses, he said. There had been some irregularities in the mailing of proxy voting forms from the embassy in Libreville, Gabon, last week, and the Ambassador to Gabon, M. Maurice Delamare, was recalled to Paris to help with official inquiries, Mr. Barre said.

The Socialist Party charged in December that the government was using its embassies to win votes of thousands of French citizens living abroad, and direct them towards marginal constituencies where the ballots could tip the balance in the elections.

U.S. will send \$1m. worth of "non-lethal" ware to Ethiopia

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (Agencies). — The United States has released \$1 million worth of trucks and spare parts for shipment to Ethiopia, but has blocked the export of "lethal" military equipment until the war in the Horn of Africa ends.

The State Department said yesterday Ethiopia, fighting Somali troops and guerrillas in the disputed Ogaden Desert region, would receive 23 lorries and trailers with spare parts paid for last year under an old agreement.

But \$6 million worth of equipment classified as lethal, including two patrol boats and aircraft spares, would remain under an embargo until the conflict is settled.

Ethiopia is receiving substantial military shipments from the Soviet Union while the U.S. has decided not to supply either side with military equipment in an effort to remain neutral in the war.

Officials emphasised that yesterday's release of equipment had been cleared before the conflict escalated.

The State Department said Special Presidential Envoy David Aaron had received a new assurance from Ethiopian leader Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam that Ethiopia would

not cross into Somali in its effort to expel Somali forces from the Ogaden.

Eritrean reprisal attack

In a separate development, an Eritrean guerrilla spokesman in Rome said today Ethiopian troops tried to break a month-long siege of the Eritrean capital of Asmara with a thrust to the south, but they were halted nine kms. outside the city.

Mr. Habtegiorgis Abraha, a spokesman for the Eritrean Li-

beration Front, said about 10,000 Ethiopian troops launched a counter-offensive five days ago towards the ELF-held town of Mendefera, 54 kms south of the provincial capital. He said the Ethiopians were equipped with tanks and backed by air power.

He said ELF troops fought them just outside the city and turned back the attack, with "thousands of casualties," he claimed an American-made F-4 jet fighter was shot down by ELF troops.

Belgrade's conference on European security likely to end without meaningful communique

BELGRADE, Feb. 23 (R). — Western, Eastern and neutral countries at the deadlocked European security conference have virtually abandoned the search for a substantial final declaration and are drawing up versions of a final communique without any real political content, diplomats said last night.

They said the West had tentatively drafted a proposal for a brief final statement because the Soviet Bloc would not agree to any substantial declaration.

The Soviet Bloc has also prepared a draft for a brief communique, and neutral and non-aligned nations have drawn up a slightly longer proposal for the final statement.

The 35-nation gathering, opened its final stage on Jan. 17 and was due to end by mid-February.

Most diplomats now expect the conference to end in early

March after failing to agree on an assessment of the results of the 1975 Helsinki accords. The accords cover political and military détente, economic cooperation, human rights and broader humanitarian issues.

A senior Western diplomat said yesterday: "The odds are now heavily against any of the substantive documents being implemented since Helsinki and containing new concrete measures to promote détente."

The Soviet Union had Tuesday rejected outright detailed 22-point Western draft summit up how Eastern countries have lived up to their Helsinki pledges and setting out new measures forward at the main meeting last year to promote détente. Diplomats said the time for real negotiations has passed and it was now too late for any meaningful agreement to be reached.

Canada's new spy scandal

OTTAWA, Feb. 23 (R). — The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) instructed an American agent to eavesdrop on Canada's chief law enforcement officer, according to a sworn statement released here. The agent was named as Warren Hart, 49, of Durham, North Carolina. He said in the statement he was a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who had worked for the RCMP between 1971 and 1975. The statement said Hart was ordered to tape-record Canada's then Solicitor General, Warren Allmand, and a leftwing politician, John Rodriguez, during conversations they held with a black militant called "Rosie". As Solicitor General, Mr. Allmand was responsible for the RCMP, which is already embroiled in a scandal over "dirty tricks" spying activities in Canada. The affidavit was released by Canadian opposition politician Elmer MacKay, a critic of the government who last year told a shocked parliament that a bugging device had been found in a chair in his office.

U.S.-Panama treaties tied up with alleged narcotics trafficking

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — The U.S. Senate yesterday ended more than 12 hours of secret debate on Panamanian leaders' alleged involvement in narcotics trafficking, with opponents of the Panama Canal treaties threatening to keep the issue alive.

The unusual debate behind locked and guarded doors focussed on a Senate intelligence committee report which said there was no evidence against Panamanian head of state Omar Torrijos that

he stood up in court. But the report, made public on Tuesday, said there was reliable evidence that Gen. Torrijos knew about narcotics trafficking by government officials and did not take sufficient action to stop the activities of his brother Moises.

Mr. Moises Torrijos, now Ambassador to Spain, was indicted by a New York grand jury in 1972 on charges of smuggling 70 kgs. of heroin into the United States. Details of the indictment were made public on Tuesday night.

Four African leaders will discuss Chad

TRIPOLI, Feb. 22 (R). — Four African presidents were scheduled today to hold a summit at the Libyan desert city of Sebha to discuss the long-standing war in Chad and relations between the four neighbours.

Libyan officials today said the meeting between Col. Muammar Qadhafi, Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri, Chad's President Felix Malloum and Niger President Seyni Kountche was expected to last two days. The Libyan Jamahiriyyah and Chad have quarrelled over a stretch along their joint border which Chad says the Libyan army has occupied since 1973.

Col. Qadhafi announced on Monday a ceasefire had been agreed in the disputed border region of northern Chad where guerrillas have been fighting government forces.

On Feb. 6, Chad suspended diplomatic relations with the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, saying it was directly involved on the side of the rebels fighting to overthrow the Chadian government. It announced that it would restore relations after the ceasefire talks here last week-end.

The Tripoli government said the fighting in Chad was an

internal matter and denied involvement.

Chad sought United Nations action over the alleged aggression.

The rebel movement fighting in Chad, the Chad National Liberation Front (Frolinat), last week claimed to have seized the northeast town of Faya.

A Frolinat statement in Paris said the regional capital of Faya-Largeau was now isolated from the rest of the country and had fallen.

When he opened the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers here on Monday, Col. Qadhafi said the meeting at Sebha, some 1,000

kms. south of here was aimed at solving the problems of poor countries.

He said President Malloum had been "hoodwinked by imperialist regimes," and added: "Initiatives of President Malloum have cut the umbilical cord of the imperialist puppets who were working to inflame the region rather than solve the dispute by peaceful means."

Split threatens Bhutto's party as daughter is nominated leader

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 23 (R). — The Pakistan People's Party of ousted Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is threatened with a split over a proposal to hand over the leadership to his 24-year-old daughter, a senior official said here. Maulana Kausar Niazi, former Religious Affairs Minister and the party's Information Secretary, revealed for the first time the existence of stresses within the party since Mr. Bhutto was deposed in a coup last July. He told a press conference yesterday that proposals to make Oxford-educated Miss Benazir Bhutto acting party chairman would make the party look like a "family limited company". The present Chairman, the jailed ex-premier's wife, Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, under threat of disqualification from politics has resigned and nominated her daughter. Maulana Niazi, the only close associate of Mr. Bhutto not to have been detained by the regime, said he was not leaving the party or creating a splinter group. He commands a considerable following as leader of the moderate group within the party.

Qadhafi angers Portugal

In a separate development, Portugal today condemned a call by Col. Qadhafi for the independence of its Atlantic Islands of Madeira and the Azores as an intolerable interference in Portuguese internal affairs.

First reports of remarks by Col. Qadhafi, made at the Organisation of African Unity meeting in Tripoli, said he had called on Britain, France and Portugal to give independence to St. Helena, Reunion and Madeira. But officials in Lisbon said the head of state of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah also included the Azores in what he described as island colonies.

World News Briefs

Cambodia reports more clashes with Viet

BANGKOK, Feb. 23 (R). — Cambodian forces killed 27 Vietnamese soldiers in border clashes this week, Radio Phnom Penh said today. The radio, monitored here, said 15 Vietnamese soldiers were killed and several wounded in a battle on Cham district of the Parrot's Beak area on Monday. Ten Vietnamese were killed during a clash the next day at a village in the northeast Province of Rattanakiri, the radio added. Two Vietnamese soldiers were killed yesterday in fighting in the same area. Some of the Hanoi troops were killed or wounded when they stepped on land mines planted by Cambodian troops, the radio reported.

Tunisia said will try union leader

BRUSSELS, Feb. 23 (R). — Herr Otto Kersten, Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) said yesterday Tunisia planned to put detained union leader Habib Achour on trial. Herr Kersten, who returned from a day visit to Tunisia on Tuesday night, quoted Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira as saying that charges were being laid against Mr. Achour and other union leaders. The union leaders were detained after at least 47 people died in riots during a one-day national strike three weeks ago called by the mining General Workers Union (UGTT) of which Mr. Achour was Secretary General. Herr Kersten told a press conference in Brussels he was allowed a half-hour meeting with Mr. Achour on Tuesday. "I want a trial," he quoted Mr. Achour as saying. "I am convinced that I can prove I am not guilty of the crimes the ministers of Mr. Nouira's cabinet say I am."

Teng may be named China's premier Sunday

TOKYO, Feb. 23 (AP). — China's new parliament meets Sunday amid speculation it may name Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping premier and give Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng the additional title of chief of state. Its main job, however, will be to hammer final nails into the power structure erected laboriously by Communist Party moderates in the wake of Mao Tse-tung's death and the crushing of the party's radicals 16 months ago. 2,500 deputies to the Fifth National People's Congress will convene in Beijing today. They will elect the new premier, and possibly revise the Constitution to abolish the chief of state's job, abolished a decade ago, approve budget and an ambitious economic plan calling for industrial modernisation by the year 2000. The last congress, meeting January 1975, approved the modernisation plan laid down by late Premier Chou En-lai. It was stalled, however, by radical position the death of Chou and Mao and the struggle for power centering around ways to carry it out.

U.K. bans National Front London march

LONDON, Feb. 23 (R). — An election march planned in the London suburb of Ilford by the neo-Fascist National Front for Sunday has been banned for security reasons, Scotland Yard said last night. Mr. Martin Webster, organiser of the anti-Nazi National Front, said it would hold a mass canvassing campaign instead.

U.S. Judge Webster becomes FBI director

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP). — Mr. William H. Webster, daily takes charge of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation today, hoping to polish the bureau's tarnished image for a del of law enforcement once again. U.S. President Jimmy Carter was scheduled to attend the swearing-in ceremony in the building that is named for J. Edgar Hoover, the symbol of the bureau's past. Mr. Webster, a former Federal Appeals judge, becomes director at a difficult time for the bureau, once-unequestioned reputation as the nation's premier law enforcement agency has been tarnished by disclosures of improper acts by FBI agents, including break-ins, illegal taps and political harassment.

Except for the resulting political furore Larnaca Airport's affair is all confusion

By George A. Krinsky

NICOSIA (AP) — The bloody clash between Egyptian and Cypriot forces at Larnaca Airport ended a 33-hour terrorist escape. But it aroused a political furore over whether one country can violate another's sovereignty to fight international terrorism.

Egypt is angry because its commandos met fierce resistance from "friendly" forces when it believed that the extraordinary circumstances of a prolonged terrorist act, aimed at Egyptian interests, was enough justification to intervene on foreign soil.

Cyprus, somewhat less angry, is nevertheless upset about what it believed to be deliberate deception and the "violation of Cypriot sovereignty" by Egypt.

The political furore is enmeshed in confusion and disagreement over what really happened after two Arabs assassinated a prominent Egyptian newspaper editor, seized hostages and tried in vain to find a safe haven.

Two Arabs, carrying Kuwaiti and Iraqi passports, came to Cyprus with the apparent intention of killing Youssef Sibal, friend of President Anwar Sadat and Editor-in-Chief of Cairo's authoritative daily, Al-Ahram. They waited four days for the right moment.

Shortly before noon on Saturday, one of the gunmen sauntered up to the 60-year-old Mr. Sibal in the Cyprus Hilton, shouted at him in Arabic and pumped three bullets into him at point-blank range.

The pair, wielding pistols and a grenade, then rounded up about 30 hostages and herded them into the hotel ca-

teris. There, they separated the hostages, released the non-Arabs and bound the hands of the Arabs with their own neckties.

The remaining 17 hostages, all members of an Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference chaired by the assassinated Egyptian, were then led to a bus that took them to Larnaca Airport, some 30 miles south.

Cyprus provides plane

At the airport, the gunmen persuaded the government of President Spyros Kyprianou to provide a Cyprus Airways plane and crew to fly them off the island. At first, Mr. Kyprianou refused and demanded that the pair release all hostages. But, for unexplained reasons, he later relented.

The plane, manned by a crew of four, took off on Saturday evening with the gunmen hoping for sanctuary in a sympathetic Arab country. Libya, regarded as friendly to Arab extremists, refused. So did Greece, Lebanon, Syria and South Yemen.

With less than an hour remaining in the DC-8's nine-hour fuel reserves, the crew proclaimed a "Mayday" emergency and landed in the tiny East African country of Djibouti. The government of Djibouti, while sympathetic to the crew and hostages, wanted the plane to go elsewhere.

After it was refueled, the airliner took off with a destination of Algeria, one more country with proven sympathies for extremists. But the government of Mr. Houari Boumedienne refused to accept the plane.

The Cypriot government, having appealed to others to

take the aircraft for humanitarian reasons, then decided "to try once again to free the hostages and arrest the terrorists." President Kyprianou later told a press conference.

The plane, landed at Larnaca about 1745 local time, nearly 21 hours after it departed from the same airport. From then on, the story becomes more muddled.

An hour after the hostage plane landed, the Larnaca Control Tower gave permission for an Egyptian plane to land. Mr. Kyprianou and other Cypriot leaders said Cairo had informed them the plane would be carrying the Egyptian minister of information.

The Cypriots expressed surprise that a giant C-130 transport plane, normally used to carry troops, should arrive to bring one government official. "When the plane landed, we realised there was no minister of information aboard but a large force of commandos," Mr. Kyprianou said.

Egypt contradicts

Egyptian officials contradicted this version, saying the Cypriots were informed the troop-laden plane was coming. The Cypriots say they only learned about the commando force when the chief of police and minister of communications approached the plane, about 900 metres from the DC-8, to greet the fictitious minister. When they saw the commandos, the Cypriot version goes, the minister rushed to the Control Tower to report the news to the president and others, while Cypriot Police Chief Savvas Antoniou remained at the Egyptian plane.

"I told them (commandos) they were not authorised to take any action," Mr. Antoniou later told reporters.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kyprianou and Socialist Party leader Vasos Lyssarides, himself one of the early hostages, were negotiating from the Control Tower with the gunmen in the plane, parked on the tarmac 150 metres in front of the terminal, on terms for a peaceful surrender and safe release of the hostages.

After two face-to-face meetings inside the plane between Mr. Lyssarides and the gunmen, "it was decided that the hostages would be freed and the gunmen arrested," Mr. Kyprianou said.

The terms of the surrender are a major point of controversy. Witnesses reported that the government was preparing Cypriot passports for the gunmen, apparently to allow them to leave the island. Officials even asked newsmen for a Polaroid camera to take passport snapshots.

Mr. Kyprianou "categorically" denied that his government offered the terrorists safe conduct out of the country in exchange for the hostages' freedom. One of the gunmen has publicly disputed that.

The one identified as Zayed Al Alali, 26, carrying a Kuwaiti passport, told the court on Monday during his arraignment for murder that such a deal had been made.

Egyptians attack

The Egyptian assault on the DC-8 began "almost immediately" after an agreement was reached to end the incident, despite our warning not to in-

terfere," Mr. Kyprianou said later.

Mr. Lyssarides claimed the Egyptians "very well knew" an agreement had been reached to end the terrorist siege but attacked anyway.

The Egyptians deny this. Brig. Nabil Shukri, commander of the 74-man commando unit, told a press conference in Cairo on Tuesday they decided to intervene "because it was clear to us at 8 p.m. that negotiations with the gunmen were faltering."

The Cypriots blamed the Egyptian Military Attaché, Col. Farouk Takky, for specifically ordering the attack in full knowledge that it was not necessary.

The Egyptians deny this, but a senior government official in Cairo also said it was "inconceivable" the Cypriots did not know the commandos would strike.

The attack began at approximately 20:10 local time, about two hours after the commandos landed. Police Chief Antoniou told reporters later that he tried to stop the troops from coming down the Hercules gangway but he was shoved aside.

A jeep with four commandos led the attack with an undetermined number of soldiers following on foot behind.

Although hundreds of Cypriot National Guardsmen and police sharpshooters were at the ready, they did not immediately open fire. It was not until the jeep got within a few metres of the DC-8 and started shooting with machine-guns into the open door of the passenger liner that Cypriot forces opened fire.